

NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

copy for "Helen"

1/18/68

Dear Mr. Sorensen,

Your letter to 1/4 to Dear Helen is not really fair to the context in which I used the quote. Out of context, your criticism is justified. In context, it is not.

I haven't time for lengthy response. I've just returned from a trip and am that much farther behind in my work.

The availability of transcripts is not what you are entitled to believe from the record. I have had complaints from witnesses that they were not available. The book makes explicit that whereas Walker was assured he could make whatever changes he desired, two cited people were not. These are Mrs. Paine and Mrs. Rowland.

Further, you are not in a position to evaluate what Liebel left out of his questioning of Walker.

What he left out of there is minor compared to other omissions. I now have a tape recording of a speech in which he acknowledges that he alone was responsible for not calling Dave Ferrie as a witness, that he had reason to believe Ferrie and Arcacha were connected, with each other, the CIA and Oswald, and that he alone wrote the non-sequitur pretended to be the basic question answer to the question of conspiracy, without so much as a typist to keep him honest and correct, when the report was on the press - and that it was wrong.

I have no doubt that he was the hardest-working member of the staff. I also have no doubt that, sincere or otherwise, he was very, very wrong.

However, my treatment of his treatment of Walker is not unfair.

For your further information, he in it discloses knowledge of Commission files that are still suppressed. I can find no good reason for it. As an example, his knowledge that Walker made a contribution of a stated size.

I think your problem is that you begin with a political bias. I genuinely believe that I do not. I am not radical-right, yet those of this spectrum who read my work carefully understand it and are the most helpful of those who seek to help. They realize that this is their country, too, and even if they detest Earl Warren, the need of their country is truth, not propaganda. At the same time, I call to your attention that one of the first things I wrote is criticism of the Commission's handling of the John Birch members who financed the scurrilous ad.

Sincerely, and hastily,

Harold Weisberg

Note...

One of your critics wrote about how stingy you were with carbon paper while at the same time so generously supplying her with copy. The generous aspect of it seemed somehow lost in view of your apparently using the same carbon paper you were using back in the 50s & never changing it.

I thank you for the carbon while understanding what she must have meant.

My own neurosis is that I positively never buy a new typewriter ribbon if I can help it, though I am so liberal with carbon paper you wouldn't believe it. So I am enclosing a Thermofax of the carbon of this letter to help you read me, and I hope you do# read the letter sometime when you're not busy.

Historians tell us Thos Edison did well with 1hr 42####mins 30secs per day of scattered but well planned sleep. Seems that you must be doing the same thing, have the secret of it. More power to you.